

**Appalachian Voices * Earthjustice * Friends of the Earth * National Wildlife Federation *
Natural Resources Defense Council * Public Citizen * Sierra Club * U.S. Public Interest
Research Group * Western Organization of Resource Councils**

**Oppose Inhofe Liquid Coal Amendment to 9/11 Bill (S.4):
It's the Wrong Way on Energy Security and Global Warming**

At a time when it's more critical than ever to take action to solve global warming and break our addiction to oil, the "Domestic Fuels Security Act" would take us down the wrong road. By lavishing federal support on liquid coal, it would open a Pandora's Box of dirty fuels that would undercut our potential to reduce global warming pollution, commit taxpayer dollars to an expensive and polluting technology of the past, and undermine our public health and safety review process.

Liquid Coal is a Global Warming Loser. Making coal into a transportation fuel (a.k.a "coal-to-liquids" or "synfuels") could result in twice the lifecycle (well-to-wheels) global warming pollution per gallon compared with the fuels we use today. Turning high-carbon coal into a liquid fuel produces heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions at the production stage and the tailpipe. So even *if* the carbon is captured and effectively stored under ground – which is not required by the Inhofe amendment – liquid coal would still result in nearly ten percent more lifecycle emissions than the fuels we use today. That's simply incompatible with our urgent need to *reduce* global warming pollution.

Liquid Coal is a Bad Investment. Expensive and incompatible with solving global warming, liquid coal is a bad investment for America's taxpayers. DOE's own economic analysis estimates that each liquid coal plant will cost \$7 billion. Building up a commercial-scale liquid coal industry – the intent of this amendment – would cost a hundred times that. Instead, taxpayer dollars should be invested in clean energy resources that can compete in a carbon-constrained market. We must invest in fuels that can slash both oil dependence *and* global warming pollution.

Liquid Coal is Dirty. Coal mining has devastating impacts on the land, water and air quality of our communities. It harms ecosystems from Appalachia to the Rocky Mountains. Mountaintop removal mining has already buried thousands of miles of streams. And wrenching coal out of the ground also comes with a dismal record of worker safety. Liquid coal fuels would mean even more coal pollution in our communities.

Short-Circuiting Public Health Reviews and Local Control. The Inhofe amendment resurrects the failed ideas of the last Congress. Even though no one has demonstrated that public health and safety reviews are holding up the construction of ethanol, oil and liquid coal refineries, the Inhofe amendment would confront local communities and public officials with rushed, narrow, and ill-defined permitting procedures. It would take jurisdiction over permitting controversies away from states and hand them to federal courts. Finally, it would replace longstanding public health and safety monitoring requirements with those deemed "substantially equivalent" by federal bureaucrats.

America Has Better Options: Clean Energy. The cleanest, fastest and most affordable way to enhance our energy security is through greater use of efficiency and renewable energy resources. America is rich in homegrown renewable power, including biofuels, and energy-saving innovation that can make our transportation less reliant on oil without filling up on dirty fuels. Our national defense deserves the best. That's why investments should go toward bio-based fuels, fuel-efficient technologies, travel management, and other measures that make us more secure while also solving global warming.

OPPOSE the Inhofe Liquid Coal Amendment to S.4.